## Master of Science Program's Response to the Review Team Report By Valerie Herzog

Introduction

The Master of Science in Athletic Training Program faculty appreciates the efforts of the Review Team to evaluate the program. The team identified several strengths of the program including the quality of the faculty, the quality of the facilities, the rigor of the research component, the exceptional pass rate on the national certification exam (BOC), the variety of clinical sites, and administrative support. We b768cm .64950 0 0 ( b768c (ve) 0.2 (t) 0.2h (a) 0.2 (t) 0.2on t) 0.2 (he) 0.5 (t) 0.2 re

athletic training. With the addition of the Wildcat Center in the Stromberg Complex, some spaces have become available. The department is currently exploring the possibility of using one of those spaces for a student lounge, but it would likely be open to all students in the department. The department does currently have a small space dedicated to student use in the academic advisement center.

- b. The second need identified by the Review Team was to seek funds for students to conduct and disseminate their research agendas. The WSU Graduate Council has been exploring funding for graduate student research on campus for the past couple of years. The Office of Undergraduate Research was able to set aside limited funds for graduate students to travel to present their research at conferences, but was not able to make any funds available for conducting the research. The program is also working with the Dean of the College of Education to explore additional funding options such as increasing the tuition level of the MSAT program. A proposal to increase the MSAT tuition will be submitted in December of 2014 to take effect in the 2015-16 academic year.
- c. The third need identified for MSAT students was to allow them to create their own research agendas rather than always being tied to one of the professor's agendas. While this may be ideal for graduate students, it would significantly increase the workload of the MSAT faculty. Students do have the freedom to choose which faculty member they work on their thesis with and each faculty member has different areas of research focus. In addition, most faculty have more than one area of research interest/expertise and two faculty outside of the program regularly advise thesis students, opening up additional areas of research in every content area of athletic training, they do have a significant variety of areas to choose from including concussions, sport psychology, education/pedagogy, ankle instability, kinesiotaping, strength training and conditioning, proprioception, injury epidemiology, and therapeutic modalities.
- 6. Dedicated secretarial support
  - a. The program is currently supported by both full-time secretaries (one on a 10month contract and the second on an 11-month contract) in the department. However, one secretary's contract was extended from 10 months to 11 months (as of July 1, 2014), with the additional month being dedicated to the MSAT program to assist with administrative tasks.
  - b. In the fall of 2014, the MSAT program will begin using the new Athletic Training Centralized Application Service (ATCAS) to collect MSAT program applications. This will reduce the workload on the program director of tracking which transcripts have been received, calculating overall and final 60 credit GPAs for each student, and managing letters of recommendation.